

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, CVIS, CA
SUBJECT : WILL SOME LOYALISTS BE RETURNING 200 YEARS LATER?

1. RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH ANGLOPHONE SMALL BUSINESSMEN IN QUEBEC CITY REVEALED A GROWING FEELING THAT THERE MAY NO LONGER BE A PLACE FOR THEM IN QUEBEC CITY. THESE BUSINESSMEN ARE NOT MONTREAL WEST ISLANDERS BUT RATHER THE SURVIVORS OF OLD-LINE ENGLISH-CANADIAN QUEBEC CITY FAMILIES. THEY HAVE ASSIMILATED WELL DURING THE CHANGES OF THE LAST 20 YEARS AND FUNCTION--IN FRENCH--IN THIS 97 PLUS PERCENT FRENCH-SPEAKING REGION. THEY ARE THE TYPE WHO HAVE PREACHED--AND PRACTICED--INTEGRATION WITHIN FRENCH-SPEAKING COMMUNITY AND WHO DEPLORED HYSTERIC REACTIONS TO QUEBEC'S LANGUAGE PROBLEMS SUCH AS CFCF'S SEPTEMBER, 1975 CRUSADE AGAINST BILL 22. YET THE CHANGES IN QUEBEC LIFE ARE FINALLY GETTING TO THEM AS WELL.

2. FIRST AND FOREMOST ON THEIR LIST OF COMPLAINTS IS THE PENDING LANGUAGE LEGISLATION WHICH IS PURPORTED TO BE MORE SEVERE EVEN THAN BILL 22. IF, AS THEY FEAR, ENGLISH-SPEAKING BUSINESSMEN MUST HAVE INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDANCE WITH OTHER ANGLOPHONES IN FRENCH, THAT COULD BE LAST STRAW. SCHOOL SITUATION BOTHERS THEM LESS

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AS MOST OF THEIR CHILDREN HAVE GROWN AND LEFT PROVINCE FOR GOOD. HOWEVER, OTHER MAIN COMPLAINT CONCERNS THE FAST PACE OF SOCIAL CHANGE THEY NOW EXPECT FROM PQ GOVERNMENT. FREEZING OF RENTS, PENDING ANTI-SCAB LEGISLATION, PENDING CHANGES IN AUTOMOBILE AND OTHER INSURANCE PROCEDURES, CHANGES IN MINIMUM WAGES, ETC. HAVE ALL COMBINED TO PRODUCE A SEVERE DEPRESSION AMONG THOSE CONTACTS. SOME MAY YET TOUGH IT OUT BUT MANY ARE CONSIDERING LEAVING.

3. COMMENT: WHILE THIS POST THUSFAR HAS HAD ONLY A SCORE OF SERIOUS IMMIGRANT VISA INQUIRIES ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE NOVEMBER 15 ELECTION RESULTS, SIGNS OF RESTLESSNESS ARE GROWING. CONSIDERING THE SHORT WAIT FOR IMMIGRANT VISAS UNDER NEW LEGISLATION, MANY OF THE RESTLESS, BE THEY ANGLOPHONE OR CONSERVATIVE FRANCO-PHONES, MAYBE MOVING OUT. FOR MOST THE U.S. SEEKS A MORE ATTRACTIVE HAVEN THAN OTHER PARTS OF CANADA. CERTAINLY, THE PQ GOVERNMENT IS DETERMINED TO ACT STRONGLY AND SWIFTLY IN SOCIAL DOMAIN TO ENSURE THAT CHANGES IT IS EFFECTING ARE IRREVERSIBLE. IT SEEKS MORE THAN LIKELY THAT A SMALL SEGMENT OF LOCAL

POPULATION --WE DO NOT WANT TO EXAGGERATE THIS ISSUE--WILL OPT FOR LEAVING QUEBEC. HOWEVER, THOUGH PROPORTION MAY BE SMALL POLITICALLY, IT COULD HAVE SOME EFFECT ON ECONOMY AND, INCIDENTALLY, ON OUR CONSULAR OPERATIONS IN PROVINCE.

MCNAMARA

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